

Being deaf has many definitions, all of which are valid, speakers say



Dr. Janet Pray

Almost every deaf person has his or her own definition of what it means to be deaf, and the deaf community must validate each person's experience, according to the panelists at the Distinguished Faculty Member Lecture, "Deaf Culture and Deafness as Disability: Can the Twain Meet?" held Nov. 1 in "Ole Jim."

Dr. Janet Pray, chair of the Social Work Department and the Distinguished Faculty Member of 1993, gave her views on the topic and moderated a panel discussion that followed. Panelists were Dr. Yerker Andersson, professor of sociology and coordinator of Gallaudet's ASL and Deaf Studies Program; Scott Bally, assistant professor of audiology; Angela McCaskill-Gilchrist, an advisor in the Academic Advising Department; Jean Mulrooney, assistant professor of psychology; and Florence Vold, assistant professor of mathematics at the

School of Preparatory Studies.

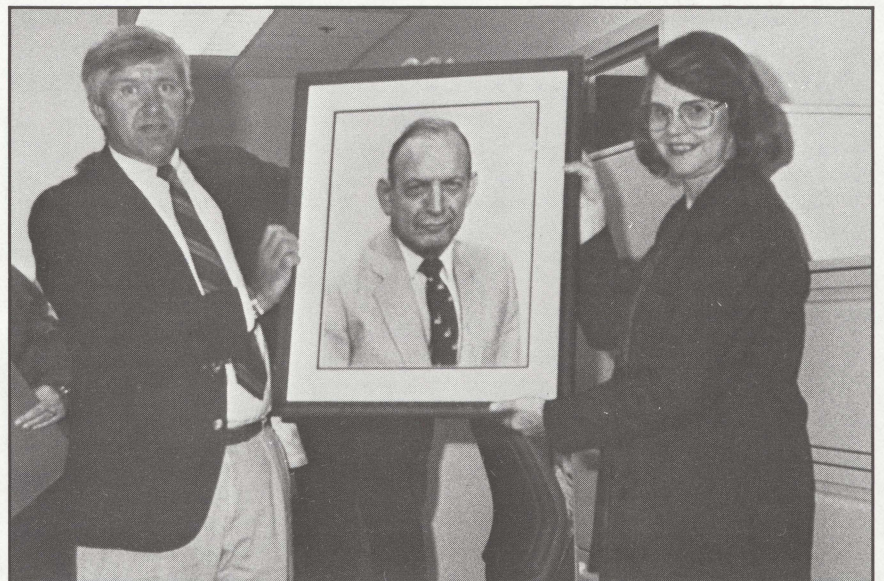
"It seems to me as a hearing person who came to Gallaudet 13 years ago that there is a growing chasm between those who are culturally deaf and those who see deafness as a disability," Pray told the group. "Are there bridges that can be built? I think it's an issue here and an issue outside as well."

Deaf people who identify with deafness as a disability tend to be hard of hearing, late deafened, or those who grew up in hearing families and were mainstreamed with hearing classmates, said Pray, while those who identify with the deaf community tend to have become deaf early in life and frequently come from deaf families.

McCaskill-Gilchrist agreed that a divisiveness exists between culturally identified deaf people and those who are hard of hearing or who make use of their residual hearing. "People rejected my hard of hearing identity," she said of her early experiences at Gallaudet. Some accused her of being "mind-hearing" because she spoke on the phone. "No experiences are the same," she said. "Black people come in different shades, but are still black. It's the same with deaf people—don't reject a person because of what hearing they have left."

Bally said the deaf community should let deaf people develop a sense of identity appropriate for themselves. He expressed concern that the deaf community's definition of what is and is not appropriate behavior for deaf people forces cultural limitations.

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Rosalyn Gannon, sign language trainer for Pre-College Programs, presents Herbert Mapes, chair of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department, with a picture of Leon Auerbach ('40), former department chair, who died two years ago. The picture, donated by the Laurent Clerc Cultural Fund, is displayed in the department's office.

MSSD benefit performance will help finance Christmas tour of Senegal

The Performing Arts Program of the Model Secondary School for the Deaf will hold a benefit performance Nov. 21 to help reach its \$10,000 goal for a trip to Senegal over Christmas break.

Six Performing Arts students and two graduates from the program, the KanKouran West African Dance Company, and the Wingbourne Dance Ensemble, both of Washington, D.C., will go to Senegal in West Africa to give dance performances.

The trip, from Dec. 18 to Jan. 4, is the result of a long working relationship with KanKouran that began in 1986 when the group's founder, Asane Konte, offered to teach West African dances to MSSD students, said Performing Arts instructor Marcia Freeman. Konte, who lives near the University, "was always fascinated driving by Gallaudet and seeing students sign," Freeman said.

Konte felt that deaf students would enjoy Senegalese dances because they include an orchestra of nine or 10 drums, which create strong vibrations. "That way, you feel involved. It's instant communication," Freeman said. KanKouran dancers have taught MSSD students every year since, helping them develop dances for public performance.

Wingbourne has collaborated with MSSD for the past eight years, helping to develop dances and concerts. Carol Erskine, founder and producing director of Pennvisions, the parent organization for Wingbourne, has created an original ballet that will be premiered in the Nov. 21 performance and repeated in Senegal. It in-

cludes three MSSD dancers—Mervin Primeaux, Jubil Khan, and Danele Williams—and four Pennvision adult dancers, two of whom are deaf. Warren Snipe, one of the deaf dancers, is a senior at Gallaudet, and Fred Beam is the director of the National Deaf Dance Theatre and an instructor in the Special Opportunities Program at MSSD.

Learning West African dances has had a significant effect on African American students in particular, Freeman said. "I think it's really providing a strong link with their African heritage. They feel pride and confidence in knowing about their culture and in being able to share it easily with others because it is movement, and visual."

Parents of MSSD students and MSSD faculty and staff will accompany the tour, which will total 46 members. An exact itinerary has yet to be scheduled, said Freeman, but it should include some of the few available schools for deaf children in Senegal as well as other schools and colleges.

MSSD, KanKouran, and Wingbourne will each pay their own way, Freeman said. The Nov. 21 performance is the only joint fundraiser in which the three groups will participate. MSSD must raise the remainder through private donations, Freeman said.

The performance will be at 4 p.m. in the MSSD Auditorium. Craftspeople will sell their wares and contribute a percentage to the tour. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens. For more information, call Marilyn Farmer at x5466.



Photo by Barbara Tyroller

The African Heritage Dancers and Drummers will celebrate their 34th anniversary with a dance concert and audience fashion show, "Celebrating Cultural Esteem" Nov. 13, 8 to 10 p.m., in Elstad Auditorium. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$7.50 for students and seniors, and \$5 for children. Call (202) 399-2020 (V) for more information.



Rollerbladers experience a "natural high" at the Substance Abuse Awareness Fair Oct. 29.

Alternatives given to drug/alcohol use

More than 650 students explored avenues to a good time that don't include alcohol or other drugs at Gallaudet University's Substance Abuse Awareness Fair held Oct. 29 in the Ely Center Multipurpose Room, according to University Center estimates.

A major highlight of the fair was a demonstration of rollerblades by Washington's City Bikes. Interested students were given the chance to try rollerblading, peppering Ely Center and the mall area with rollerblading figures who donned signs declaring, "I'm experiencing a natural high."

Following the theme, "Alcohol and Other Drugs: Making Healthy Choices," the fair used a Halloween motif that included slogans such as "Don't Feed the Monsters." It featured 10 organizations that educate people about alcohol and drug abuse, such as the Washington Area Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the American Cancer Society, and the Addictions Treatment Center at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, Md. Also, representatives from the distributorship of Sharp's nonalcoholic beer and the Maryland Beverage Company, which offered free glasses of Mystic flavored water, an alternative to alcohol, were present.

"The evaluations from students seem to indicate that the fair was both entertaining and informative," said Jennifer Joseph, health educator for Health Promotion and Education, part of the Student Development Office, which co-sponsored

the fair with the University Center. "I think students seemed to get our message that there are many ways to have a good time without using alcohol, the infamous 'social lubricant.'"

Student peer health educators, Student Development assistants, and other student assistants also played a large role in the fair. Other organizations represented included the Drug Enforcement Administration; Training for Intervention Procedures by Servers of Alcohol; Prince George's County's Health Department; and D.C. Public Schools; the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services Administration Office of Information, Prevention, and Education; Alcoholics Anonymous; and the Metropolitan Police Department Traffic Enforcement Branch Alcohol Countermeasures Program.

Policies revised

The University has revised its policies relating to tuition assistance, parental leave, leave without pay, and service awards.

Educational assistance for Gallaudet employees has increased from \$4,000 to \$4,300 per academic year. Also, tuition assistance for employees' children and spouses has increased to \$4,300—or a total of \$17,200—for employees with at least 10 years of service. Employees with 5-10 years of service receive a prorated amount for their children's/spouse's tuition.

The parental leave policy clarifies that leave may be taken within one year after the birth or adoption of a child. The leave without pay policy now includes provisions for family and medical leave. Starting in January, the service award program will offer gifts and savings bonds of increasing value, and retirement selections will be added.

For more information, contact the Personnel Office.

Announcements

"Race, Gender, and Criminality: Women in Western Prisons," is the topic of the Women's Resource Center's first lecture in its 1993-94 Lecture Series. The topic will be presented in "Ole Jim" on Nov. 9 at 4:15 p.m. by Dr. Anne Butler, a history professor at Utah State University. A reception follows.

The Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf, one of the oldest state organizations for deaf people in the United States, has donated 100 years' worth of documents related to their organization to the Gallaudet Archives. The group was born at a meeting in College Hall in 1880.

The University community is invited to take part in a national teleconference on Nov. 10 entitled "We Can Get Along: A Blueprint for Campus Unity."

sponsored by the magazine *Black Issues in Higher Education*. Participants from Gallaudet will meet in Ely Auditorium from 1-3 p.m. The teleconference is one of the follow-up activities from Diversity Day, which was held on campus last spring.

To help Gallaudet employees make informed decisions during Health Insurance Open Season Nov. 8-Dec. 13, a Health Insurance Fair will be held at Kendall Green Nov. 10 in Ely Auditorium from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and at the Northwest Campus Nov. 11 in the Main Hall Lounge from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. A presentation, "How to Choose the Right Health Plan," will be presented at Kendall Green's fair at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., and at the Northwest Campus' fair at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call Agnes Muse, x5352.

Distinguished faculty lecture held

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"I think we need an entire reconceptualization of what the issue is," Mulrooney said of Pray's suggestion that deaf identity is a continuum. "I don't deny that I have a disability, though I don't like that term any more than anyone. But even after becoming deaf, my deafness was not my main identity." Students who come to Gallaudet are looking not just for a culture but for an identity they can relate to, she said. "We must accept and promote anything that works for these individuals."

Andersson contrasted the deaf communities of Sweden, where he grew up, to those of the United States in how the two treat late-deafened people. In Sweden, late-deafened people

who still signed in Swedish word order were welcomed to deaf clubs as assets. When he came to Gallaudet in 1955, he found that late-deafened people often spoke and signed at the same time—a new concept to him—and that deaf people joined groups based on communication and cultural identity.

Vold acknowledged that there is a gap between hard of hearing people and those considering themselves culturally deaf. When she was growing up, she said, "Hard of hearing meant you were smart, you had better language, and you were the teacher's favorite."

A member of the audience disagreed with the panelists, saying that "We don't need to build bridges. We need to stop destroying bridges."

Classified Ads

Classified ads are printed for Gallaudet faculty and staff. Ads must be submitted in writing in person or by mail to *On the Green*, MSSD, Room G-37. Off-campus phone numbers must include an area code and whether the number is voice or TTY. In compliance with the Education of the Deaf Act of 1992, as amended, payment of \$1 per ad per printing must accompany each ad. The deadline for submitting ads is Friday, 10 days before the desired publication. Ads received Nov. 8-12 will be published Nov. 22. Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, *On the Green* will not be published Nov. 29.

FOR SALE: Beige/tan corduroy sofa w/recliners on each end, good cond., \$400. Call (301) 595-0384 (TTY) 6-8 p.m. or E-mail DMBARRON.

FOR SALE: '80 Suzuki GS550L motorcycle, garage kept, no rust, sissy bar, new chrome handlebars, runs great, \$900; HP DeskJet 500 printer, rarely used, \$310. Call Nancy, (301) 464-9219 after 8 p.m. or E-mail NEKENSICKI.

WANTED: Tutor needed in reading and writing for 16-yr-old MSSD boy. Call (703) 684-1642 days or (703) 256-9535 eves.

WANTED: Deaf student from Greece seeks person to continue work on speaking, reading, writing Greek, 1 hr./wk., in Silver Spring, Md., or on campus. Call (301) 588-0831 (TTY) or E-mail 11AANITSAS.

FOR SALE: Pine sofa bed, \$300; matching love seat w/2 foot rests, \$200; white folding table, \$35/BO; all good cond. Pine end table, \$50; Ikea entertainment center w/black light, \$200; both exc. cond. Call Brenda, (202) 675-8931 (TTY) or E-mail BCURTIS.

FOR RENT: Sunny 1-BR basement apt. in Montpelier Hills, Laurel, Md., near Rt. 197 and B/W Pkwy., W/D, cable, fireplace, priv. entrance, \$550/mo. incl. util. Call Olin or Audrey, (301) 206-5276 (V/TTY) eves.

FOR RENT: Townhouse in Laurel, Md., near I-95, Rt. 216, 3 BRs, 1½ baths, WD, w/w carpet, AC, cable ready, no pets, \$725/mo., deposit. Call (202) 512-4944 (V) days.

WANTED: Roommate to share condo, preferably professional woman, no pets or smoking. Call (301) 552-0279 (TTY) or E-mail SMCLENNON.

FOR RENT: 1-BR condo w/pantry and huge walk-in closet, W/D, Rockville, Md., near Grosvenor and White Flint Metro, rent w/option to buy, \$480/mo. Call Vivian, (301) 770-1562 (V) eves.

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Dr. Harvey Corson, vice president for Pre-College Programs (left), recognizes Wilton McMillan, director of Student Life at MSSD, and Rene Newman, financial/personnel technician in the Department of Budget Management, for 15 years of service to Gallaudet.